

## Speak up & be heard

CONSUMER REGISTER lists summaries of major consumer proposals before Federal agencies. If you wish to submit written comments, include your name & address, state the name & *Federal Register* citation of the proposal on which you are commenting and explain your views briefly & clearly.

## Study group charters

A new Civil Aeronautics Board regulation will allow some time for independent travel to students who go abroad on study group charters.

Study group charters feature at least 4 weeks of formal classes abroad as well as supervised travel. The charter may be an educational institution or the sponsor of a course of study at a school abroad. Most participants are high school or college students.

Two study group charterers—the American Institute for Foreign Study Inc. & Trans International Airlines, Inc.—petitioned the CAB, asking for a regulation providing for independent travel time at the student's expense. However, to minimize the risk of stranding students abroad, the CAB put restrictions on its travel proposal:

- To qualify for independent travel, a student must be either 18 years old or a 17 year old who has completed a year of college. Others may not travel independently unless accompanied by an adult. In addition, other students must have a statement of parental consent to their planned independent travel. The consent statement must include the name & address of the adult who will travel with the student.

- All students must submit travel itineraries in advance to the study group officials for approval.

- When necessary, study group officials must provide financial & other assistance to assure that students are not without food, shelter or other necessities during their independent travel. A student who receives such assistance would have to reimburse the charter group.

- The time that study group officials may set aside for independent travel cannot be more than half of the time provided for formal academic studies.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 16, page 16537.

## Tires

Since Oct. 1, a new Transportation Dept. regulation prohibits the manufacture of car tires that do not meet Transportation performance requirements.

Since Oct. 1970, Transportation has allowed the sale of car tires that did not meet the department's performance tests. These tires were to be sold only for off-highway purposes; manufacturers had to label them so that purchasers would be aware they were unsafe for highway use. However, the department received reports

that significant numbers of these tires were being sold by unscrupulous dealer for cars for highway use.

The new regulation bans all manufacture of tires that do not comply with Transportation standards. Tires presently on dealer shelves may be sold until supplies are exhausted.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 17, page 16604.

## Diagnostic kits

Oct. 16 is deadline for comments on a Food & Drug Administration proposal to bring certain medical diagnostic equipment under FDA regulations.

The FDA proposal would apply to the diagnostic equipment for conducting a variety of medical tests, such as urinalysis & blood tests. The tests are often required to diagnose such conditions as heart & kidney disorders, diabetes & urinary-tract infections.

FDA officials say there has been a rapid growth in the number & variety of diagnostic products & increasing use by physicians, hospital personnel & consumers. Because of this increasing popularity, FDA intends to give closer scrutiny to the kits to see that they do not give inaccurate, imprecise or unreliable results.

The FDA proposal would place diagnostic kits under FDA control by requiring a uniform labeling format for all kits that clearly presents the individual characteristics of the kit, the scientific basis of the test & directions for use.

FDA also said it will review all diagnostic kits on the market to establish performance standards for the various types of kits. Notices will be published in *Federal Register* proposing the establishment of these standards. FDA officials say that the first kits subject to regulation will be those used for determining glucose & hemoglobin in body fluids.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 17, page 16613. Send comments to the Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Vaccines

Oct. 17 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's proposed review of the effectiveness & safety labeling of all vaccines.

The purpose of the review would be to reassure FDA, the medical community & consumers that vaccines

& other biological products licensed over the past 70 years are safe & effective when measured against the latest scientific criteria.

For each category of biological products to be examined, an advisory panel of experts representing professional, consumer & industry interests would be formed. Products to be studied include: antitoxins; immune serum globulins; bacterial vaccines; toxoids; virolog vaccines; diagnostic substances for skin tests; allergenic extracts.

The review panels would develop standards for effectiveness of each category & determine which of the products are safe, effective & properly labeled. Based on these evaluations, FDA would determine which product licenses would be confirmed, revoked or permitted to remain in effect pending further study.

The first group of products that would be reviewed under the program would be those bacterial vaccines labeled "No U.S. Standard of Potency." There are 31 products in this category.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 18, page 16679. Send comments to the Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Land developers

Housing & Urban Development Dept. has scheduled a series of 2-day hearings to investigate the practices of land developers.

HUD officials will give consumers priority over developers on the agenda at the hearings. Consumers may express their complaints or comments about land developers in their area.

Hearings will be 6:30-9 p.m. on the first day & 9 a.m.-noon on the next day. Hearings will be in Chicago, Oct. 11-12; Seattle, Oct. 19-20; San Francisco, Oct. 24-25; Los Angeles, Oct. 26-27; Phoenix, Nov. 14-15; Houston, Nov. 16-17; Little Rock, Nov. 21-22; Tampa, Nov. 28-29; Miami, Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

For details about the hearings & where they will be held, see *Federal Register*: Aug. 31, page 17773, or write to George K. Bernstein, Interstate Land Sales Administrator, Room 9230, Housing & Urban Development Dept., Washington, DC 20410. Priority on the agenda will go to persons sending a written request to Bernstein.

## Pesticides

Nov. 13 is deadline for comments on a Food & Drug Administration proposal to require special child-proof

packages for many pesticides, fungicides & other household poisons.

The regulation would cover products that the Environmental Protection Agency finds to be highly toxic.

FDA studies show 8,602 instances where children under 5 swallowed such poisons between 1968 & 1970. Of these, 583 children were hospitalized & 40 died.

The proposed standards would apply to liquid products sold in packages of less than a gallon & others in packages of 5 pounds or less. FDA officials say larger size packages are primarily for commercial use & seldom are exposed to children.

Under the special packaging regulations, 85% of a group of 200 children under 5 would have to be unable to open the container when they have no instruction on opening it. After such instruction, 80% still must be unable to open the package. However, 90% of a test group of 100 adults must be able to open the package.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 14, page 18629. Send comments to the Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Auto safety

Nov. 30 is deadline for comments on a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration proposal to require cars to be designed so that no part of the vehicle can hit or penetrate the windshield in a crash test.

The agency proposed the standard to decrease the number of injuries resulting from accidents in which some part of the hood penetrated or nearly penetrated the windshield. In some instances, the hood, when forced back, caused the windshield to shatter. Other times, the crash displaced the hood into a position in which a person's head could be thrown against it when the windshield stretched forward during the crash.

Under the proposal, a zone in front of the windshield would be defined & established in which no part of the car could come in contact with the windshield in a frontal, perpendicular, fixed-collision-barrier crash.

The agency proposed to put this new standard into effect by Sept. 1, 1973, for cars & by Sept. 1, 1974, for multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks & buses weighing 10,000 pounds or less.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 31, page 17763. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5221, 400 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20590.

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